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BOOK REVIEWS.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE LAW OF RECEIVERS, AS APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUALS, PARTNERSHIPS AND CORPORATIONS. By William A. Alderson. New York : Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1905. pp. lxxi., 956.

The author of this treatise is the reviser of Beach on Receivers. Accordingly, he brought to the performance of his present task an amount of preparation, which does not always characterize the legal writer, in this era of rapidly multiplying books. It is not surprising, therefore, that his publishers confidently declare that "this work constitutes an exhaustive presentation of every feature of the Law of Receivers and contains more matter, more cases, and a greater number of topics, than any other book on the subject". Our examination of the volume convinces us that this claim is well-grounded. Whether it contains any unnecessary topics and any superfluous matter, is quite another question. A comparison of the chapter, on Receivers in Bankruptcy, with the corresponding sections in the last edition of Collier on Bankruptcy, will show the fullness with which Mr. Alderson discusses even the minor topics of his theme. Cautious readers may think that it also shows a superfluity of matter, in the three or four pages devoted to the consideration of the question, whether the appointment of a receiver in a State Court is an act of bankruptcy. There can be no doubt, however, that his discussion of "The Effect of Bankruptcy Proceedings on Receivership Proceedings in State Courts," is excellent.

"Receivers of Railroads" is a topic which naturally lends itself to extended consideration, from several points of view ; and the author has spared neither himself nor his readers, in this part of his work. Not only has he collated the cases exhaustively, but he has indulged himself in trenchant criticism of what he believes to be evil tendencies and bad practices. He bastes "friendly receivers" and their advocates most vigorously, quoting freely from eminent judges, the while. Most of the chapter on "Receivers of Partnership Property" is admirable ; but the section headed, "Right to Share in Profits as a Test of the Partnership", is rather disappointing. The author seems to have had in mind, here, the rule that a receiver may be appointed in actions between joint owners of profits, whether they are partners or not.

We have no doubt that the volume will be found very useful to the practitioner. It is certainly a fine specimen of the bookmaker's art ; and, probably, the publishers are justified in claiming that it "is not only the latest, but the most extensive and satisfactory work on the subject".

A BRIEF SURVEY OF EQUITY JURISDICTION. By C. C. Langdell. Cambridge : The Harvard Law Review Association. 1905, p. 303.

The series of articles appearing in the Harvard Law Review from time to time under this title demonstrated, if any further proof of the

fact were required, that Professor Langdell was a master of the art of legal exposition. In these articles he brought to bear his great powers of critical analysis and historical research upon a subject involved, so far as text writers were concerned, in such doubt, confusion and indefiniteness as to justify in some measure the observation of Selden that the rules of equity varied as the chancellor's foot. The result of his investigation was, that fundamental principles governing the exercise of equity jurisdiction were traced to their sources, their true scope and meaning ascertained, and what had hitherto been regarded as a heterogeneous collection of rules and maxims was reduced to an orderly and comprehensive system expressed in a style which is marvellously clear and concise, and at the same time comprehensive and illuminating.

Such a stimulating source for discussion and investigation could not fail to give rise to much critical examination of the author's theories, and to occasional differences of opinion on the part of teachers and writers, as is notably the case with the views expressed by Professor Langdell upon the subject of "equitable conversion" (p. 65) and specific performance of negative contracts.

The well thumbed volumes of the Harvard Law Review to be found upon the shelves of every library of significance, bear witness, however, to the extent to which these articles have been a constant source of inspiration to students and teachers alike, to say nothing of the occasional assistance which they afford to practitioners having some intricate problem of equity jurisprudence to solve. The republication of these articles, therefore, in some convenient form rendering them more accessible to the constantly increasing number of their readers, was much to be desired.

The present volume is strictly a reprint. Very little will be found in it which did not appear in the original articles as published in the Harvard Law Review. Not even a table of cases or an index is added to assist the reader who may wish to locate some special topic or trace some particular doctrine. The practical value of the book might also have been greatly enhanced by the judicious selection and addition of modern decisions, in which it is to be regretted many judges have not consistently followed the results reached by the author. It is believed these articles, carefully annotated by a competent authority in the manner indicated, would be unrivalled as an authoritative text and work of reference on the subject of equity jurisdiction, viewed both upon a theoretical and practical standpoint. It is earnestly to be desired that some one properly qualified by training, experience and native ability may be induced to undertake this work for some future edition, and that in any event future purchasers of the book may not be deprived of the mechanical aid of an index and a table of cases.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF WILLS. John R. Rood. Chicago, Ill.: Callaghan & Co. 1904. pp. lxvi, 635.

An attempt to summarize all the law of the passing of property from the dead to the living is made in a treatise on wills, including gifts *causa mortis*, with a summary of the law of descent, distribution and administration, by John R. Rood. An effort to explain thoroughly the essentials of all of these topics, in a single volume of less